

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1065

419 Railroad Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

Circa 1900

Private

The dwelling at 419 Railroad Avenue was constructed circa 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendants of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

This single-family dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot with a paved driveway surrounded by mature trees and shrubs. A chain link fence surrounds the rear yard. The vernacular wood frame dwelling features a rectangular footprint, re-clad with vinyl siding, and sits on a solid concrete block foundation. The house is two stories in height and two bays wide. There is a one-story shed-roof porch, supported with square wood posts, across the full-width of the façade. The dwelling has a single-leaf flush wood door and the windows have been replaced with 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes with louvered vinyl shutters. It is capped with a front gable roof with a molded, boxed cornice and sheathed with asphalt shingles. One center-interior brick chimney rises above the roof.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1065

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 419 Railroad Avenue

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mel P. Dimaano

street and number 419 Railroad Avenue

telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore

state MD

zip code 21286-5412

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber 14643 folio 59

city, town Towson

tax map 70A

tax parcel 402

tax ID number 925450060

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1065

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1900, this single-family dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot with a paved driveway surrounded by mature trees and shrubs. A chain link fence surrounds the rear yard. The vernacular wood frame dwelling with a rectangular footprint sits on a solid concrete block foundation and is re-clad with vinyl siding. The house is two stories in height and two bays wide. There is a one-story shed-roof porch, supported with square wood posts, across the full-width of the façade. The dwelling has a single-leaf flush wood door and the windows have been replaced with 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes with louvered vinyl shutters. It is capped with a front gable roof with a molded, boxed cornice and sheathed with asphalt shingles. One center-interior brick chimney rises above the roof.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1065

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1900 ca.

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1900 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 419 Railroad Avenue was constructed circa 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1065

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .06 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 419 Railroad Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 402 since its construction circa 1900.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting, K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 28, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1065
Name: House, 419 Railroad Avenue
East Towson
Baltimore County



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet

1:2400

100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Paved Parking / Driveways
- Hydrographic Features
- Buildings
- Vegetation

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum

Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'



**East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County**

BA-1065

(BALTIMORE WEST)
5862' SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

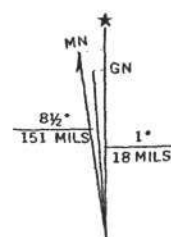
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1065

HOUSE, 419 RAILROAD AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

EAST ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-1065

HOUSE, 419 RAILROAD AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1065

HOUSE, 419 RAILROAD AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER

3 of 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE CLYDE D. YOUNG HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

419 Railroad Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Clyde D. Young

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

419 Railroad Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 959/119

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1065 - 419 Railroad

before 1915

This two-story frame house is two bays wide by two long bays deep. Its gable end faces the street and is shaded by a simple porch.

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

419 RR

This simple two-story frame house was built before 1915. The rectangular house is two short bays wide by two long bays deep. Its gable end faces the street. Doors pierce the southern bay on the east and the western bay on the north. 6/6 sash windows furnished with louvered shutters occupy the other bays on the east and north. A shed-roofed porch with square posts crosses the east or street facade. The house is presently covered with grey asphalt shingles imitating cut stone.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Early land records indicate that this property was conveyed by Edward Taylor and wife to Benjamin Payne in 1846. Subsequent conveyances of this property occurred between; D. M. McIntosh and Mary Butler in 1874, Maryland Real Estate and Sarah Hosmer in 1907. Sarah Hosmer and Earnest C. Hutch and Elmer Cook in 1908. Harrison Rider unto William L. Kenny 1911, William and Elizabeth Kenny unto George Smith and Courtney Jenifer Administrator unto James and Nellie Lock. And lastly from James Lock to the present owner, Clyde D. Young.

This house exemplifies the gracious yet simple life of the E. Towson community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect

7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee To Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1065

Clyde D. Young House

419 R.R. Ave.

Towson, Md.

east

Merry Stinson

1977



BA-1065
Clyde D. Young House
419 R.R. Ave.
Towson, Md.
northeast
Merry Stinson
1977